# NEWSLETTER

ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS

*prepared by the public services division*

September 8, 1972

## ARBORETUM DIVISION

You will find a new garden feature adjacent to the Home Demonstration Garden entrance. It is a Sunken Garden which uses broken concrete retaining walls and a newly-built fence to show off horticulturally interesting plants, including one of our best species of Tabebuia chrysotricha and a spectacular new vine, Combretum fruticosum. Lang & Wood designed this new feature.

North of the Bromiliad Greenhouse you will see a new development taking shape called the deciduous working center. We will be hearing more about that later.

The annual and perennial garden and what was to be the phylogenetic garden is to become a part of one of the most spectacular features at the Arboretum. Work will begin soon on the grading for the Meadow Brook Project. In general, a stream will be developed that will appear to start at the base of the Meyberg Waterfall, and empty into the upper lagoon. Garden features will show off North American and Asiatic plants and a magnolia collection.

Anyone who has watched the progress in the Vegetable Garden must have realized that eggplant really grows well. If anyone has any real good recipes for cooking and utilizing eggplant, please send them to Frank Simerly, who will be sharing them with anyone who is interested.

Frank Simerly visited Mark Anthony in the hospital August 30th. He is getting along well, and according to the nurses, has a very strong pinch. Mark would like to hear from all of his friends in the department.

Anyone looking for a puppy? Frank Simerly has nine mongrels he will share with anyone who will offer a home. (please)

Remember, tomorrow is the annual picnic which this year will be held at Bolsa Chica Beach. If you have not already made reservations, it may not be too late.

## SOUTH COAST DIVISION

Bill Cross has almost completed the frame for the tram canopy. We expect the whole project will be completed by the time you read this so we invite you to come experience what we have done recently for our tram passengers: The paving crew smoothed out the bumps and ruts and eliminated the dust factor by asphalt surfacing the main road. Vinyl seat cushions installed on the tram have minimized discomfort to passengers' maximums; and the canopy will help keep their heads a little cooler.

One of the most beautiful botanic attractions at present is our outstanding group of Erythrinas (coral), particularly Erythrina Cristagallii or cockspur coral, growing near the southern comfort station. Other plants now in bloom include: Gamolepis chrysanthemoides, Leonotis leonurus, Leucaena glauca (white popinac), Solanum jasminoides (potato vine), Plumeria rubra, Lobelia erinus (Crystal Palace), Mandevilla 'Alice DuPont', Distictis lactiflora, Tibochina semidecandra (Princess Flower).

Wednesday morning birders report observation of the following fine feathered friends: black-chinned hummingbird, rufous hummingbird, bank swallow, common raven, common crow, common bushtit, robin, orange-crowned warbler, Bullock's oriole. Two Wilson's phalaropes were spotted swimming in the lake for the first recorded observation at South Coast.

The recently organized South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society has cleaned out the small cactus garden between the entrance gate and the office and is relandscaping the area as an outdoor permanent display maintained by their group. One of their foremost members and a member of our staff, Daryll Combs, has recently left the South Bay area to take a job in Santa Barbara. We wish him well and hope he will find his way back every now and then to visit.

South Coast has come in for quite a bit of attention recently because of the dubious distinction of being a former dump. The Planning Commission for the city of West Fresno inquired in detail about our methods of dealing with the problems peculiar to gardening over a sanitary landfill in order to apply them to a similar situation in their developing community. Mr. E. C. Van Ryn of County Sanitation Department brought a Virginia state official to South Coast for a "look-see" recently. The garden was also featured on Channel 7's Eyewitness News at 4:30 p.m. on August 22.

## PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

With the coming of fall, our Multilith 1250 duplicator is running almost full time turning out class schedules, news releases about classes, items like the Theodore Payne Foundation Lecture Series brochure, material for the forthcoming Las Voluntarias docent orientation program, information and quiz sheets for the school field trip training program, this newsletter, and the continuing run of the Poisonous Plant brochure which ultimately will reach 90M pieces of paper. Which is another way of saying that Dave Van Ausdal is a very busy pressman these days.

Bob Copper is vacationing in Canada, and Alan Lugena is driving back from the midwest with stops at scenic points for sketching. Don Graf, who recently returned from a Canada vacation, ran into ten days of rain which, being the seasoned naturalist he is, he took just about the way you and I would.

## EDUCATION DIVISION

On September 25th, the Santa Anita Depot will be 2 years old. We will celebrate with cake and coffee at 2 p.m. in the depot. If you haven't been yet here is your golden opportunity. Attendance at the depot will be close to 25,000 by that date.

In August we were given a chest of drawers by Ben Benadum of Alhambra who lived in the depot as a child with his family. His father was postmaster and custodian of the depot. Ben slept on the porch at night, even in the winter. He remembers when gas was 8¢ and you went to the blacksmith shop to get your car fixed.

The historical buildings have been renovated this summer. The roof was repaired on the Barn and fresh paint on the Queen Anne Cottage and the Coach Barn. The gardens in the historical complex have now completely recovered from the 1969 fire.

Did you know? The Yellowstone Park Timberland Reserve was established 100 years ago to set apart the region for the enjoyment of the public.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The business office would like to welcome its much needed new student worker Miss Patrice Hogan. Patrice is a graduate of Arcadia High School and will start classes this fall at U.C.L.A. She plans eventually to study law. The girls in the business office would like to invite all interested spectators to some really terrific Slo-Pitch softball games. The first team consists of the majority of female Arboretum employees and they have really shown a lot of talent at their first three practice sessions. When league starts, schedules will be available to those who are interested.